(b) if so, whether such a revival package will be restricted to Assam only or other North Eastern States would also be given such packages for industries (particularly labour intensive) peculiar to particular North-Eastern States and whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Silk Board is implementing various Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes in the North Eastern States. 90% grants-in-aid is provided to the North-Eastern States for development of sericulture and silk industry. During X plan, the thrust of the Scheme in the North East Region is on development of non-mulberry sericulture. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to the States for critical inputs in Eri, Muga and Tasar development in order to develop seed production, expand host plant cultivation, improve farm infrastructure, train and equip farmers with essential tools, upgrade reeling and processing technologies etc. During 2002-2003 under Catalytic Development Scheme, the Central Silk Board has released a sum of Rs. 2.94 crores to all the North-Eastern States of which Rs. 1.19 crores has been released to Assam. The processes performance and impact of the scheme are being monitored by mechanisms set up within the Government with a view to apply correctives and ensure goal and target achievement.

Aritisan Credit Cards (ACC)

†1694. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced to provide, Artisan Credit Cards (ACC) to two lakh artisans this year, under a new scheme;

(b) whether a special package costing Rs. 70 crore has been prepared for the development of textile sector of Jammu and Kashmir, whether similar packages have been prepared for any other State of the country;

(c) if so, the names of such States and the details of amount to be granted to these States as speical packages; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Prime Minister on 23rd May, 2003 announced at Srinagar a comprehensive package of assistance for the State of Jammu and Kashmir covering various aspects of development and security, with a thrust on generation of new employment opportunities for the youth of the State and relief for migrants affected by militancy and cross-border shelling. The Package pertaining to the textile Sector includes schemes aimed at development of traditional cottage industries of wool, pashmina, sericulture, handicrafts and carpet weaving. The Package was approved for Rs. 70 crore for a five year period. The Government have not prepared similar package for any other State of the country.

(d) As the set of circumstances prevailing in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is special, the Special Package of Assistance has been announced for that State. However, the Package draws largely upon the existing Tenth Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Textiles benefits of which are available to all States of the country.

Import of cloth from China and Korea

†1695. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Readymade Kapdon mein bhi cheen ki dhak" which appeared in the Media recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after giving relaxation in import of cloths; the cloths will be imported from China and Korea in the country in large quantity;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to protect the indigenous textile industry?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.